

Phase 1A for COVID-19 Vaccine

Health Care Workers and Long-Term Care Residents

- **Health Care Worker Definition:** Paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials. This includes persons in training (i.e., nursing/medical students). Individuals who perform multiple functions should be vaccinated according to their highest priority tier.
- **Long-Term Care Definition:** Adults who reside in congregate facilities that provide a variety of services, including medical and personal care, to persons who are unable to live independently (i.e., skilled, basic, assisted living facilities, veterans' homes, low-income senior housing, group homes and intermediate care facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities).

The following table provides guidance to health care facilities and the North Dakota Department of Health regarding how to prioritize limited supplies of COVID-19 vaccine amongst health care workers and long-term care residents in Phase 1A.

Tiers within Phase 1A	Referral Hospital (Health System Associated)	Critical Access Hospital (Health System Associated)	Community (Not Health System Associated)	Long Term Care Staff and Residents
Tier IA*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical care staff/physicians • ER staff/physicians • Infectious disease physicians • Hospitalists • ER triage • Primary care nursing (RN, LPN, CNA) • Anesthesia • Respiratory therapy • Primary care physicians 			

Tiers within Phase 1A	Referral Hospital (Health System Associated)	Critical Access Hospital (Health System Associated)	Community (Not Health System Associated)	Long Term Care Staff and Residents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First responders • Phlebotomy staff • Radiology Staff • COVID-19 vaccinators 			
Tier IA*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical care staff/physicians • ER staff/physicians • Infectious disease physicians • Hospitalists • ER triage • Primary care nursing (RN, LPN, CNA) • Anesthesia • Respiratory therapy • Primary care physicians • Emergency Medical Services (EMS) • Phlebotomy staff • Radiology Staff • COVID-19 vaccinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical care staff/physicians • ER staff/physicians • Infectious disease physicians • Hospitalists • ER triage • Primary care nursing (RN, LPN, CNA) • Anesthesia • Respiratory therapy • Primary care physicians • First responders • Phlebotomy staff • Radiology Staff • COVID-19 vaccinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First responders • COVID-19 vaccinators (local public health, pharmacists/interns/techs, National Guard, nursing students) • COVID-19 specimen collectors (i.e., static testing sites) • Staff of urgent care centers with direct patient contact • Acute care clinic staff with direct patient care 	
Tier IB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home health staff/hospice • General Surgeons • Laboratory staff • Inpatient pharmacy • Patient transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home health staff/hospice • General Surgeons • Laboratory staff • Inpatient pharmacy • Patient transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home health staff/hospice • Laboratory Staff • Patient transport (i.e., dialysis, long term care to hospital) • Oral surgeons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term Care Staff and Residents
Tier II	Health care workers with direct patient contact who are 65 or older OR have underlying health conditions putting them at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness.			

Tiers within Phase 1A	Referral Hospital (Health System Associated)	Critical Access Hospital (Health System Associated)	Community (Not Health System Associated)	Long Term Care Staff and Residents
Tier III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All other physicians, nurses, CNAs • Other therapists (physical, occupational, speech) • Psychiatry staff/mental health providers • Incident command staff • Admitting staff • Housekeeping • Dietary staff • Laundry staff • Chaplain staff • Security staff • Social workers/Discharge/Case managers • Ward clerks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All other physicians, nurses, CNAs • Other therapists (physical, occupational, speech) • Psychiatry staff/mental health providers • Incident command staff • Admitting staff • Housekeeping • Dietary staff • Laundry staff • Chaplain staff • Security staff • Social workers/Discharge/Case managers • Ward clerks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other therapists (physical, occupational, speech) • Free standing dialysis center staff with direct patient care • Free standing inpatient rehabilitation • Surveyors/inspectors of healthcare facilities • Incident command staff • Jail and prison healthcare staff • Non-acute care clinics or surgery center staff with direct patient contact • Mortuary service providers 	
Tier IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical records staff • Central Supply staff • Purchasing staff • Maintenance staff • Information technology staff • Admin Support • Finance staff • Bio-medical staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical records staff • Central Supply staff • Purchasing staff • Maintenance staff • Information technology staff • Admin Support • Finance staff • Bio-medical staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School nurses • Dentists, dental assistants and hygienists 	

Tiers within Phase 1A	Referral Hospital (Health System Associated)	Critical Access Hospital (Health System Associated)	Community (Not Health System Associated)	Long Term Care Staff and Residents
Tier V	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other staff without direct patient contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other staff without direct patient contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optometrists Psychologists/Psychiatrists Chaplains Social workers Case managers Other public health workers Chiropractors Naturopaths Mental health workers 	

**If limited COVID-19 vaccine for tier IA, then referral hospitals will be allocated vaccine before other facilities.*

The federal [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) makes recommendations for which groups should be prioritized for COVID-19 vaccine. Due to limited supplies of COVID-19 vaccine, the North Dakota COVID-19 Vaccine Ethics Committee made recommendations as to how to prioritize amongst the ACIP-recommended groups in Phase 1A. Ethical principles and the following criteria were used to determine priorities:

- Risk and intensity of exposure to COVID-19;
- Likelihood of adverse outcome if infected with COVID-19; and,
- Critical role in ensuring survival of infected patients and ensuring the integrity of community function.